

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, IT

SUBJECT: SOARES INTERVIEW IN ITALIAN WEEKLY

1. THE LATEST ISSUE OF THE ITALIAN WEEKLY IL MONDO (APRIL 3) CONTAINS AN INTERVIEW WITH PORTUGUESE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO MARIO SOARES. (THE INTERVIEW TOOK PLACE PRIOR TO THE FORMATION OF THE NEW CABINET.)

2. IN THE INTERVIEW SOARES INTER ALIA CRITICIZES GENERAL SPINOLA FOR MANY POLITICAL MISTAKES MADE BETWEEN APRIL 25 AND LAST SEPTEMBER, AND STATES THAT "THE DIRECT CONSEQUENCE OF THESE MISTAKES WAS THE CRISIS WITH WHICH PORTUGAL IS NOW CONFRONTED." CONCERNING THE COMMUNIST PARTY, SOARES TAKES ISSUE WITH CUNHAL'S ASSERTION THAT THERE IS NO ROOM FOR A MIDDLE CLASS DEMOCRACY, ADDING THAT CERTAIN SIGNS INDICATE THAT "THE COMMUNISTS DO NOT INTEND TO RESPECT A PLURALISTIC SCHEME GIVING FREEDOM TO EVERYONE." HE STRESSES THAT FOR THE PRESENT THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY "IS SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THE ITALIAN AND ALSO THE SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY."

3. REGARDING THE FUTURE, SOARES INDICATES THAT HE IS "NEITHER RESIGNED NOR PESSIMISTIC." IN HIS OPINION THE

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MAJORITY OF THE AFM "WANTS TO RESPECT THE RULES OF TRUE

DEMOCRACY." SOARES BELIEVES THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS ARE STILL VERY IMPORTANT SINCE THEY WILL BE A REAL TEST OF THE STRENGTH OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND ALLIANCES, AND ACCORDINGLY WILL RESULT IN "AN ESSENTIAL CLARIFICATION IN OUR POLITICAL LIFE."

4. POUCHING EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF THE FULL INTERVIEW.
BEAUDRY

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